



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
July 26, 2006

For More Information, Contact:
Michelle Feist
Tracy K. Miller, M.P.H.
North Dakota Department of Health
Phone: 701.328.2378
E-mail: mafeist@nd.gov
tkmiller@nd.gov

North Dakota Reports First Human Case of West Nile Virus in 2006

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health today announced the state's first human case of West Nile virus infection for 2006, according to West Nile Virus Program Manager Tracy Miller.

The hospitalized patient is a male in his 50s who resides in Richland County.

“This case is a reminder to all North Dakotans of the importance of taking precautions to protect ourselves from mosquitoes,” Miller said.

To reduce the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes that carry West Nile virus, the state health department recommends the following protective measures:

- Limit outdoor activities between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most likely to bite.
- Wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts when possible.
- Eliminate stagnant water and leaf debris in containers around homes where mosquitoes can lay their eggs (e.g., buckets, flowerpots, old tires, wading pools and birdbaths).
- Keep mosquitoes from entering your home by repairing screens in windows and doors.
- Keep the grass around your home trimmed.
- Use insect repellent that contains ingredients approved by the Environmental Protection Agency. (Read all instructions carefully.)

The following is a summary of West Nile virus activity to date:

- Human cases – 1
 - Total tests conducted at Public Health Laboratory – 119
 - WNV-positive dead birds – 5
 - Total dead birds tested – 20
 - WNV-positive live birds – 15
 - Total samples tested – 553
- more --

600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 301, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0200
Phone: 701.328.2372 Fax: 701.328.4727 E-mail: health@nd.gov

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- WNV-positive horses – 1
 - Total horses tested – 14

West Nile virus activity will be updated Wednesday mornings each week throughout the West Nile virus season on the Department of Health's West Nile virus website at www.ndwnv.com.

For more information, contact Michelle Feist or Tracy Miller, North Dakota Department of Health, at 800.472.2180 or 701.328.2378.

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Policy for Release of Information Concerning West Nile Virus Cases

The North Dakota Department of Health strives to protect the identity and the privacy of people who are infected with diseases, including West Nile virus, while at the same time protecting the public's health. The following list identifies the information the Department of Health will release to the media and/or public concerning West Nile virus cases.

West Nile Virus Cases

- Number of cases per county
- Number of males and females statewide
- Number hospitalized statewide
- Number of cases by age group statewide
 - Younger than 10
 - Ages 10 to 19
 - Ages 20 to 29
 - Ages 30 to 39
 - Ages 40 to 49
 - Ages 50 to 59
 - Age 60 and older

West Nile Virus Deaths

- Region of the state in which the person resided
- Age group of the person
- The person's gender
- If the person had any underlying medical conditions

Information about a West Nile virus death will be released only after the department has consulted with the patient's health-care provider and after the provider has communicated with the patient's family. The local public health unit in which the person resided also will be notified prior to release of information.

If you have any questions, please contact Loreeta Leer Frank or Stacy Eberl, North Dakota Department of Health Office of Public Information, at 701.328.2372.

Communication policy developed 2002; updated 2006.

Please note: To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Department of Health Press Room at www.nddohpressroom.gov.

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